



South Wales Outdoor Activity Providers Group

13th Full Meeting – 7th November 2016 Garwnant Visitor Centre

In Attendance

James Arnold – Royal Navy	Judith Harvey – BBNPA
Tom Moore - UWTSD	Gary Evans – Hawk Adventures
Rhys Jordan – UWTSD	Lee Garbit – Quest Adventures
Rich Hill _ Maes Y Lade	Emyr Rees – Atlantic College
Peter Francombe – Visit Wales	Tom Partridge – Atlantic College (TP)
Richard Tyler - BBNPA	Richie Hamilton – The Adventure Alternative
Mick Collins – Outdoors@Hay	Ieuan Starks – School Camps
Riki Phillips – Mynydd Outdoor Adventure	Gemma Starks – School Camps
Lisa Boore – Freelancer	D Hunter – FDTC Crickhowell
David Jones – Rock UK	Tom Partridge – Atlantic college
Dan Thorne – Woodlands OEC	Simon Neenan – Atlantic college
Zoe Anthony – Miskin Project	L Korodimou – Atlantic college
Jessica Bowen – Freelance	Emyr Rees – Atlantic college
Mark Soanes – Brecon Beacons Tourism Association	Matt Woodfield – SWOAPG
Nick Winder – Tirabad	Paul Dann – NRW
Dave Thomas – Call of the Wild	Eoghan Powell – Carreg Adventure
Zoe Russel – Call of the Wild	Huw Jones – Central Beacons MRT
Rhys Pinner - URDD	Jon Roberts – Princes Trust
Neil McMullen – Blue Ocean Activities	David Williams – NPTC Group
Sam John – Oxwich Watersports	Ceri Davis – Swansea Watersports

1. Welcome:

Nick Winder opened the meeting as SWOAPG Chairman, thanking everyone for attending and NRW for allowing us to use the Garwnant visitor centre.

Apologies:

Steve Rayner	Mike Forset	Jeff Calligan
Will Kilner	Steffan Davies	Dianne Worrall
Juliet Parker Smith	Owen Newton	Kevin Walker
Simon Clarke	Mike Smith	Owen Hayward

2. Introduction and Update:

Coordinator 2017-18.

Matt Woodfield invited people to consider taking on the Coordinator role after he steps down in September 2017. If you are interested just get in touch to find out more.

Membership.

Membership stands at 268 (197 Providers, 40 Individuals, 16 Observers, 9 Associates and 6 Clubs). 59% of Providers are signed up to the Environmental Charter.

Access.

We are currently working on managing access issues at The Bont, Neath Canal and Rhossili. Updates will be sent out to members as things progress.

Coasteering in Pembrokeshire.

The Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group asks that anyone who provides coasteering in Pembrokeshire get in touch with Paul Renfro (paul.renfro@pembrokeshirecoastalforum.org.uk) and sign up to their concordat for use with the National Trust. This system, based on our own Concordat, replaces the previous licensing approach and is fee free.

3. EGM Outcome

Following the EGM on July 11th, the new Terms of Reference were voted in by members. The main changes are that the Coordinator contract is now held by Steering Group rather than BBT, and a new SWOAPG bank account is managed by our Treasurer Riki Phillips.

4. Vision Statement

An overview of the changes to reflect our new Terms of Reference and work aim in the future was given by the chair. A vote to accept them was proposed by Gary Evan and Seconded by Rich Hill.

The majority of those in attendance voted to ACCEPT the new Vision Statement, with no votes against it.

A copy of this document is available on the swoapg.org website.

5. Year of Legends 2017:

Peter Francombe from Visit Wales gave an overview of the YoL, which aims to promote Welsh legends and legendary experiences during next year, in a similar way they promoted the Year of Adventure this year.

For more information watch there [video](#) and visit the Year of Legend [website](#) to get a step-by-step guide for your business.

To get involved you can:

Use the hashtags: #FindYourEpic, #GwladGwald

On Twitter use @VisitWalesBiz or @CroesoCymruBus

And sign up for Newsletters <http://gov.wales/topics/tourism/enews1/?lang=en>,
<http://gov.wales/topics/tourism/enews1/?skip=1&lang=cy>.

6. Surf Lifesaver:

Hugh Murray, technical director of the Surf Life Saving Association of Wales gave an overview of existing awards and what the organisation has planned for the future.

As they are working on a new National Surf Sport Safety Qualification, he is asking for input and feedback from Providers delivering in a surf environment:

What should be included in a new award.

What First Aid are you administering?

What Rescues are you performing?

How do you interact with Rescue Services?

Please contact Hugh with your replies - hugh@porthcawlsurf.co.uk.

7. "Effective Outdoor Sector" Update:

Following the Inspiring Through Adventure Conference (ITAC) in February, NRW have funded a small project to take forward some of the recommendations coming out from the event. Regional events have been held across Wales to get input into how we can create a more joined up and effective Outdoor Sector.

The report is due out next year and is likely to recommend a portal style approach that allows the right people to talk about the right issues without requiring significant time or investment.

Updates will be sent out as things progress, this project has great potential, however its benefits will take time to come through.

8. Workshops 2016-17:

Thanks to funding from Visit Wales we are running a series of workshops and code of conduct training sessions over winter and spring.

The Adventure themed Coasteering Workshop running November 11th was fully booked, workshops on the History of Dinas, Legends in the Landscape and Story Telling are following over the next few months.

There will also be a new business introduction to the Waterfalls area with Code of Conduct training sessions for both the Mellte and Dinas Gorges in the new year.

All information on these will be put on the website and sent out via email and social media. All bookings are managed through our online system.

9. Dinas Behavior:

Nick Winder and Gary Evans gave some background to the continued issues we face in the Dinas area, mainly around a few unidentifiable providers allowing nudity in the village hall car park, between the residents' houses and children's playground.

The consequence of the actions of these few could result in a loss of access for all Providers. As Steering Group can't take things any further that they have already, members were asked for their thoughts on way we might be able to solve the problem.

Tom P suggested marking groups with bibs to ID them.

Dave T suggested more signage, i.e. "no changing" and "concordat in place"

Paul D said this needs to be about changing behavior. 17 warning letters have been sent to date.

Ieuan S suggested signage aimed at participants – "is your provider signed up?"

Tom P asked if the community could take on the carpark as a social enterprise and manage the issue

Jon R asked if the NP wardens could help out

Judith H said wardens could be used, and that a resurvey was due for the Mellte to measure impact

Dave Thomas asked if a changing screen could be installed at the hall

Paul D said the community was unlikely to allow it given the proximity to the playground

Riki P asked if there could be a warden like at Cwm Porth

Judith H said this would create a very high cost per vehicle as it currently takes two large carparks to fund the one warden

Tom P asked if the "Nomad" building is still an option for remote parking and changing

Richard T noted there would be significant cost to a shuttle bus to make this work

Tom P suggested we could have Provider Volunteers to manage the carpark

Ceri Davis suggested that all guides should wear ID bibs

Ieuan S suggested pop up changing screens at busy times

Locking the carpark and engaging with locals were also suggested.

The new steering group will take this issue forward and discuss it further.

10. Mountain Rescue:

Huw Jones from Central Beacons MRT gave a presentation about Mountain Rescue in South Wales, an overview of what they do and how it works, some specific things relating to working in the gorge environment and about the change of helicopter for rescue.

The overall message was to get out there and enjoy it, but take the right kit.

Notes from our workshop with Mountain Rescue on working in the gorge environment can be found [here](#).

11. Steering Group Nominations:

A huge thank you went to Gary Evans for all his hard work over the last 8 years in forming the group, being its first Coordinator and as a valuable steering group member ever since.

Tom Partridge, another previous Coordinator, also stepped down, along with Carl Durham, both have been on the steering group since it was formed.

Nominations for new members were received in advance and asked for on the night. A vote to accept 3 new members was taken and Jon Roberts (Princes Trust), Ieuan Starks (School Camps) and Emyr Rees (Atlantic College) were accepted onto the Steering Group

12. AOB

12.1 Tom Partridge gave an update from AAIAC, they are looking into reviewing the provision of licensing in an attempt to simplify the process for both Providers and Customers. Feedback on a draft consultation will be sent out to members as it becomes available.

12.2 Nick Winder gave an update from the Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL), they have created three Welch area sections in the north, west and south, the south area is chaired by Richie Hamilton. They are looking to support & promote quality delivery in Wales.

The next full meeting will be in October / November 2017.

This meeting and the ongoing development and support for the SWOAPG is made possible by funding from:



Croeso Cymru
Visit Wales

